

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 EUR-25 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 IGA-02 AID-20 HEW-08 EB-11 SS-15 NSC-10 H-02

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IO/ CMD: J. MCDONALD

AF: MR. BROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION OF TEXT PARA 1, LINE 56)

E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, SOCI, SENV, XJ, XY, UN

SUBJECT: NIXON LETTER TO WALDHEIM ON DROUGHT

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT
PARIS FOR RAICHT AND QUANTON
ROME FOR FODAG
EC BRUSSELS FOR WENDT

1. WHITE HOUSE IS RELEASING AT 11:45 EST ON JUNE 21 FOLLOW-
ING TEXT OF LETTER DATED JUNE 20, 1973 FROM PRESIDENT NIXON
TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ANNOUNCING APPOINTMENT OF
AID DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR MAURICE J. WILLIAMS AS SPECIAL
UNITED STATES COORDINATOR FOR THE US DROUGHT RELIEF AND
REHABILITATION EFFORT. THE LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO
WALDHEIM'S APPEAL FOR A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM TO
ALLEVIATE THE IMPACT OF THE DROUGHT AND PREVENT FAMINE. THE
DEPARTMENT IS PROVIDING A DROUGHT RELIEF BACKGROUNDER AND
BIO INFORMATION ON WILLIAMS AT NOON JUNE 21. BEGIN TEXT:
DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL:

I FULLY SHARE THE CONCERNS WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED TO
AMBASSADOR SCALI FOR THE MILLIONS OF PERSONS WHO ARE
SUFFERING FROM THE TERRIBLE DROUGHT IN THE SAHELIAN NATIONS
OF WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. FOR MANY MONTHS REPORTS FROM
UNITED STATES AND UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES AND FROM
THE GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES HAVE RELATED GRAPHICALLY THE
GROWING EFFECTS OF THE WORST DROUGHT OF THIS CENTURY IN THE
AFRICAN SAHEL. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN SPARED THIS
SCOURGE HAVE BEEN RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS, BUT MORE MUST
BE DONE, AS YOU HAVE SAID. THE UNITED STATES STANDS PRE-
PARED TO COMMIT FURTHER RESOURCES AS NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES RESPONSE HAS BEEN CARRIED
OUT ON SEVERAL FRONTS. WE HAVE INCREASED THE AMOUNTS OF
FOODGRAINS DESTINED FOR THESE NATIONS THROUGH BOTH
AMERICAN PROGRAMS AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMS. BY MID-
SUMMER, 156,000 TONS OF GRAIN VALUED AT NEARLY DOLS 19
MILLION WILL HAVE ARRIVED IN WEST AFRICAN PORTS OR IN
THE INTERIOR STATES OF MALI, UPPER VOLTA, NIGER AND CHAD.
TWO MILLION DOLLARS IN DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS HAVE ALSO
BEEN MADE AVAILABLE. UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT,
AND THOSE OF OTHER DONORS, ARE AIRLIFTING GRAIN TO
STRICKEN NOMADS AND FARMERS IN REMOTE DISTRICTS OF MALI AND
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CHAD. ANIMAL FEED AND VACCINES ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO
SAVE AS MUCH LIVESTOCK AS POSSIBLE. MEDICINES ARE BEING
PROVIDED TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION AND POTENTIAL EPIDEMICS.
IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA, THE
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS PROVIDED A
LOGISTICAL PLANNING EXPERT TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OUR STAFFS IN WEST

AFRICA ARE BEING AUGMENTED TO IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO DELIVER WHAT IS NEEDED TO THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT THE PROBLEMS OF DEALING WITH THE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY WILL BECOME EVEN MORE DIFFICULT AS THE RAINS BEGIN AND ROAD TRANSPORT PROBLEMS INCREASE. WE HEREOFRE STAND READY TO PROVIDE FURTHER SUPPORT FOR INTERNAL TRANSPORT, AS SPECIFIED NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED.

AS YOU HAVE RECOGNIZED, THIS REGION IS FACED NOT ONLY WITH THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF FEEDING THE HUNGRY BUT ALSO REHABILITATING WATER AND FORAGE RESOURCES, LIVESTOCK HERDS AND GRAIN PRODUCING FACILITIES TO PERMIT A LONG RANGE RECOVERY FROM THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT. THIS EFFORT WILL REQUIRE CLOSE COLLABORATION AMONG AFRICAN LEADERS AND THE DONOR COMMUNITY. AS SPECIFIC REHABILITATION NEEDS ARE MORE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED, AND AS IT BECOMES CLEARER WHAT OTHERS ARE READY TO DO, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE SAHEL TO HELP OVERCOME THE PROFOUND EFFECTS OF THIS TRAGEDY.

IN ORDER TO COORDINATE MORE EFFECTIVELY OUR EMERGENCY RELIEF EFFORTS AND TO PLAN OUR PART IN A REHABILITATION PROGRAM, I INTEND TO DESIGNATE MR. MAURICE J. WILLIAMS AS A SPECIAL UNITED STATES COORDINATOR. HE WILL COOPERATE

CLOSELY IN HIS WORK WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA AND WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS-- SO THAT THE WORK OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION CAN GO FORWARD AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. SINCERELY,
RICHARD NIXON

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. KURT WALDHEIM
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SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK 10017

END TEXT.

2. THE PRESIDENT DESIRES THAT COPIES OF THIS LETTER BE DELIVERED TO THE CHIEFS OF STATES OF THE SIX SAHELIAN GOVERNMENTS PRIMARILY AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT. YOU ARE THUS INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER THE TEXT OF THIS LETTER AS DIRECTED ASAP.

3. FYI IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON FUNDING LEVEL THAT ADMINISTRATION MAY SEEK FROM CONGRESS FOR US CONTRIBUTION TO SHORT TERM RELIEF EFFORT AND INTERMEDIATE TERM REHABILI-

TATION PROGRAM UNTIL SPECIFIC PROJECTS ARE IDENTIFIED AND
ALLOCATED AMONG INTERNATIONAL DONORS ON BASIS YET TO BE
DETERMINED. ROGERS

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To: ABIDJAN
BAMAKO
DAKAR
FORT LAMY
GENEVA
NIAMEY
NOUAKCHOTT

OUAGADOUGOU

PARIS

ROME

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